

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 5-12 and 20-23 remain withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 14, 19 and 24 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 13-19 and 24 remain in the application. Support for the amendments to the claims is identified herein below. No new matter has been added. This application has been carefully considered in connection with the Examiner's Action. Reconsideration, and allowance of the application, is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 2 and 19 stand objected to because of minor informalities. By this amendment, claims 2 and 19 have been amended to correct the minor informalities, as appropriate. Accordingly, the objection to the claims is now believed overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 recites an interconnect in a series of interconnects of a garment, the interconnect comprising:

- a first portion including a magnet with a first magnetic direction and means for forming an electrical connection; and

- a second portion comprising means for forming an electrical connection when coupled with the first portion,

- wherein the first and second portions form a mechanical connection and an electrical connection when connected, the garment further including:

- a sensor for sensing a coupling of the interconnect in the series of interconnects; and

- an attachable device, wherein the attachable device is adapted to be controlled in response to a number of coupled or uncoupled interconnects in the series of interconnects sensed by the sensor.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 (as well as claim 24), can be found in the specification at least on page 7, lines 24 to page 8, line 5, and FIG. 9.

Claims 1-4, 13 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schmidt (5954520). With respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The PTO provides in MPEP § 2131 that

"[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim...."

Therefore, with respect to claim 1, to sustain this rejection the Schmidt reference must contain all of the above claimed elements of the respective claims. However, contrary to the examiner's position that all elements are disclosed in the Schmidt reference, the reference does not disclose "...an interconnect in a series of interconnects of a garment ... a sensor for sensing a coupling of the interconnect in the series of interconnects; and an attachable device, wherein the attachable device is adapted to be controlled in response to a number of coupled or uncoupled interconnects in the series of interconnects sensed by the sensor" as is claimed in claim 1.

Therefore, the rejection is not supported by the Schmidt reference and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable and an early formal notice thereof is requested. Dependent claims 2-4 and 13 depend from and further limit independent claim 1 and therefore are allowable as well.

By this amendment, claim 24 has been amended in a similar manner with respect to the amendment to claim 1. Claim 24 is believed allowable over the Schmidt reference for reasons similar as stated herein above with respect to overcoming the rejection of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 24 is believed allowable and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection thereof has now been overcome.

Claim 14 recites a garment comprising:

- a series of interconnects, each interconnect comprising:
 - a first portion comprising including a magnet with a first magnetic direction and means for forming an electrical connection; and
 - a second portion comprising means for forming an electrical connection when coupled with the first portion, wherein the first (22) and second (23) portions form a mechanical connection and an electrical connection when connected, the garment further comprising:
 - a sensor for sensing a coupling of each interconnect in the series of interconnects; and
 - an attachable device, wherein the attachable device is adapted to be controlled in response to a number of coupled or uncoupled interconnects in the series of interconnects sensed by the sensor.

Support for the amendments to claim 14, can be found in the specification at least on page 7, lines 24 to page 8, line 5, and FIG. 9.

Claims 14 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by T.T. Greenwood (1827940). With respect to claim 14, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The PTO provides in MPEP § 2131 that

"[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim...."

Therefore, with respect to claim 14, to sustain this rejection the Greenwood reference must contain all of the above claimed elements of the respective claims. However, contrary to the examiner's position that all elements are disclosed in the Greenwood reference, the reference does not disclose "a garment comprising a series

of interconnects ... a sensor for sensing a coupling of each interconnect in the series of interconnects; and an attachable device, wherein the attachable device is adapted to be controlled in response to a number of coupled or uncoupled interconnects in the series of interconnects sensed by the sensor” as is claimed in claim 14.

Therefore, the rejection is not supported by the Greenwood reference and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, claim 14 is allowable and an early formal notice thereof is requested. Dependent claims 17-19 depend from and further limit independent claim 14 and therefore are allowable as well.

Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection thereof has now been overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over T.T. Greenwood (1827940) in view of Tilbury et al (6561814). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reason. Dependent claims 15 and 16 depend from and further limit allowable independent claim 14 and therefore are allowable as well.

Accordingly, the §103(a) rejection thereof has now been overcome.

Conclusion

Except as indicated herein, the claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights they may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicants furthermore reserve their right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or a continuation application.

It is clear from all of the foregoing that independent claims 1, 14 and 24 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims (2-4 and 13) and (15-19) depend from and further limit independent claims 1 and 14, respectively, and therefore are allowable as well. The amendments herein are fully supported by the original specification and drawings as discussed herein; therefore, no new matter is introduced. Issuance of an early formal notice of allowance of claims 1-4, 13-19 and 24 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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